

# Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

## USA Comments

### APPENDIX 3.7.3.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY LAND

### Article 3.7.3.5.

#### Planning the journey

##### 1. General considerations

...

- c) Regulations concerning drivers (for example, maximum driving periods) should take into account animal welfare whenever ~~is~~ possible.

**Comment/rationale:** syntax.

##### 2. Preparation of animals for the journey

- a) When animals are to be provided with a novel diet or method of water provision during transport, an adequate period of adaptation should be planned. For all animals it is extra important that the rest stops during long journeys are long enough to fulfil the animal's needs for feed and water. ~~needs of the animals of feed and water.~~ Species-specific short period of feed deprivation prior to *loading* may be desirable.

**Comment/rationale:** syntax

## Article 3.7.3.7.

**Pre-journey period**

...

4. Specific species requirements

~~Transport procedures should be able to take account of variations in the behaviour of the species.~~ Transport procedures should be able to account for variations in the behaviour of the species in transit. Flight zones, social interactions and other behaviour vary significantly among species and even within species. Facilities and handling procedures that are successful with one species are often ineffective or dangerous with another.

Recommendations for specific species are described in detail in Article 3.7.3.12.

**Rationale:** syntax.

## Article 3.7.3.9.

**Travel**

...

6. Rest periods and conditions ~~including hygiene~~

- a) Animals that are being transported should be rested at appropriate intervals during the *journey* and offered feed and water, either on the *vehicle* or, if necessary, unloaded into suitable facilities.
- b) Suitable facilities should be used en route, when resting requires the *unloading* of the animals. These facilities should meet the needs of the particular animal species and should allow access of all animals to feed and water.

**Rationale:** Delete the text “including hygiene”; the content of the guideline does not include a reference to hygiene.

## Article 3.7.3.12.

**Species specific issues**

**Pigs** have poor eyesight, and may move reluctantly in strange surroundings. They benefit from well lit loading bays. Since they negotiate ramps with difficulty, these should be as level as possible and provided with secure footholds. Ideally, a hydraulic lift should be used for greater heights. Pigs also negotiate steps with difficulty. A good ‘rule-of-thumb’ is that no step should be higher than the pig’s front knee. Serious aggression may result if unfamiliar animals are mixed. Pigs are highly susceptible to heat stress. Pigs are susceptible to motion sickness when in transit. Feed deprivation prior to loading may be beneficial to prevent motion sickness.

Rationale: Pigs are among the recognized species of animals that are susceptible to motion sickness; therefore, such information should be included in the species specific issues section of the guidelines.